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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/597,150

07/13/2006

Daniel Willem Elisabeth Schobben

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EXAMINER

FAULK, DEVONA E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/03/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/597,150	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SCHOBEN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> DEVONA E. FAULK	<b>Art Unit</b> 2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 July 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Klayman (US 4,819,269).

Regarding claim 1, Klayman discloses a device having a first and a second sound-generating means (Figure 1, speakers 20 and 22) and an input for a stereo signal (stereo source 10, Figure 1) comprising left and right sound signals (Figure 1), and wherein the device has an interconnected first and second part comprising the first and second sound generating means (Figure 4,.teaches that the speakers can be arranged in a single housing; column 5, lines 36-40, Figure 8 teaches that the speakers can be mounted in a vehicle; the speakers are implicitly interconnected) , respectively, the first part being formed so as to couple sound waves generated by the first sound-generating means into a surface when placed upon said surface (Figure 8; implicit) d and wherein the device has means for sending a first signal which is a composite of the left and right sound signals, to the first sound- generating means of the first part), and a second

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signal, which is a different composite of the left and right sound signals, to the second sound-generating means (4) of the second part (sum and difference circuit comprise the claimed means, Figure 1; column 3, lines 44-55).

Claim 2 recites the same features as claim 1, with the exception of "...the first part being arranged to couple sound waves generated by the first sound-generating means (2) into an outer envelope (81) of the first part..". (Klayman teaches that the speakers can be mounted in a single housing and mounted in a vehicle; See Klayman as applied above to claim 1. All elements of claim 2 are comprehended by Klayman as applied above to the rejection of claim 1.

Claim 3 recites the same features of claim 1, with the exception of "...the first part being formed so as to couple sound waves generated by the first sound-generating means (2) into an elongated element (51) coupled to the first part ..". (Klayman teaches that the speakers can be mounted in a single housing and mounted in a vehicle; the side walls of the vehicles reads on the elongated element as recited above; See Klayman as applied above to claim 1.) All elements of claim 3 are comprehended by Klayman as applied above to the rejection of claim 1.

Regarding claim 6, Klayman discloses wherein the first part comprises a coupling means (Klayman teaches of the speakers mounted in a vehicle; therefore a coupling

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means is implicit).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4,5,7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klayman (US 4,819,269) .

Regarding claim 4, the examiner asserts that using orthogonal signals for driving sound generating means in a sound system is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to modify Klayman so that the means for sending are arranged in such a way that the signals are orthogonal signals so that a better sound field can be created.

Regarding claim 5, Klayman discloses wherein the means for sending are arranged in such a way that the first signal comprises a difference signal of left and right stereo signals and the second signal comprises a sum signal of the left and right stereo signals (See Klayman as applied above to the rejection of claim 1)..

Regarding claims 7-9, Klayman teaches of the speakers mounted in a vehicle (Figure 8) and implicitly of some coupling means. The various coupling techniques of a suction

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element, a magnet and reversible coupling means are all well known in the art. To use one type of coupling means over another is just a matter of substitution. It would have been obvious to modify Klayman so that the coupling means is a suction element, a magnet or reversible coupling for the benefit or using an alternative method of coupling.

Regarding claim 10, the examiner takes official notice that piezoelectric speakers are well known in the art. It would have been obvious to modify Klayman so that the speakers are piezoelectric type speakers for the benefit of having a speaker system more resistant to overload.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DEVONA E. FAULK whose telephone number is (571)272-7515. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Devona E. Faulk/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2615